

fan

January 4, 1978

Memo to File:

Re: Utah International, Inc.
Cedar City, Utah
Iron County, Utah
ACT/021/001

On December 21st 1977, this operation was inspected by Ron Daniels, Mike Thompson and myself in the company of Messrs. Al Barber and Garth Webster of Utah International, Inc.

We examined inactive and abandoned pits and dumps to observe their condition and degree of revegetation success, as well as active sites.

The McGary pit has been closed for four (4) years with plans to fill the pit with waste material in the future. The dump has been recontoured and revegetated with a surprising degree of success considering the rockiness of the soil. The Blackbird pit and dump has a possibility of being reactivated in the future due to the presence of some high grade ore. The Irene and Pioche pits are being backfilled with waste from the Little Mormon pit which is active. The Eclipse dump has a fair revegetation success. The old Ute pit is being backfilled and used as a landfill for trash. The Smith pit is being leased to the county as a sanitary landfill. The South Lindsey pit is active.

The Alluvium area appears to have the best chance for revegetation success due to the area and type of operation involved. The Mobile Plant excavates a trench to extract the ore then the pit is backfilled with waste, coarse material first and fine material on top. As the Plant moves the area is regraded and seeded. Test exclosures to prevent grazing showed a good degree of revegetation success within a fair degree of success outside. A new seeding this fall will have to be looked at in the future.

The Comstock area has a high wall problem that must be resolved with fencing and/or safety berms to prevent accidents. A small amount of water has been encountered here but, presents no problem. The waste dumps are very high and need further stabilization. Some revegetation test plots have been established on top of the dumps by Southern Utah State University but, it is too early to see any results.

The tailings pond shows some evidence of serious erosion in a few locations along the dike. The decanting area is being moved forward.

Since the milling operation was shut down for the winter, we toured this facility also.

JAMES W. SMITH 
RECLAMATION SOILS SPECIALIST